

Military memorial planned for Perry High

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By [Malcolm Hall](#) Repository staff writer

PERRY TWP.

With a fierce-looking Perry panther standing by his right leg, the bronze warrior has the look of pride in purpose.

He is the sculptured soldier that will be the centerpiece of a memorial complex that is to pay tribute to Perry High School graduates who lost their lives in recent military conflicts.

A committee led by Perry High English teacher Cindy Whetstone is in the midst of raising the money needed to build the memorial complex in front of the school at 3737 13th St. SW.

"I started this about a year ago March," Whetstone said. "I have taught about the Vietnam War. I lost a close friend in the war. I have always been haunted by that. It is something that I think is part of a catharsis in our community."

Alan Cottrill Sculpture Studio & Gallery in Zanesville is preparing the statue, which will have the 7-foot-tall bronze soldier standing on a granite pedestal.

Images of 10 men who attended Perry High School will be engraved on the memorial. Nine of these men died during the Vietnam War. The 10th, Richard Ramey, died Feb. 8, 2004, while serving with the Army in Iraq.

Because Perry High School did not exist until the mid-1950s, the memorial will not involve those who died in earlier conflicts such as the Korean War or World War II.

Surrounding the statue will be a brick-surface esplanade, or patio, which the artist drawing indicates will include granite benches and trees. Patrons can contribute to the project by buying one of the bricks that will be used.

"We are hoping that will be a big fundraiser for us," Whetstone said. "We have raised about \$40,000. We are guessing we will need about \$70,000 to \$75,000. The statue alone is \$50,000."

If the memorial is placed according to Whetstone's plans, it should have a conspicuous position on the high school's campus. The goal is to have the tribute up by Memorial Day in 2006.



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TRIBUTE TO SACRIFICE. This is an artist rendering of a proposed bronze statue that will pay tribute to former Perry High School students who lost their lives war-time military duty. The cat represents a panther, Perry High's mascot. A fundraising committee wants the statue put up in a proposed memorial garden site (above) at the school at 3737 13th St. SW.

"I think what we approved was the concept," said Elaine Campbell, Perry Local Board of Education member. "I don't think the exact location has been identified. I think those last details of where and how it will be placed will need a little more work."

The death of Ramey, a member of the Army's 703rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit based at Fort Knox, Ky., is a fresh memory for Perry residents.

The proposed memorial tribute "is a wonderful idea," said Julia Ramey, the sergeant's mother. "I think it is something that we really need. This will be a reminder in front of the high school that we are all part of a community."

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FORMING PERRY MILITARY MONUMENT. Sculptor Alan Cottrill of Zanesville forms the bronze statue that will be a replica of a soldier for memorial complex planned for Perry High School at 3737 13th St. SW. The statue is to be part of a tribute to former Perry High students who died during war-time military duty.

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